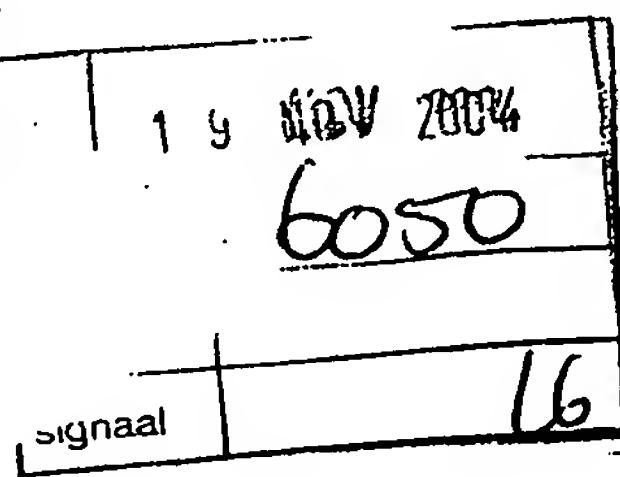


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION (PCT Rule 66)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year)	22.11.2004
Applicant's or agent's file reference WO 6050-Lg/jdh		REPLY DUE	within 1 month(s) from the above date of mailing
International application No. PCT/EP 03/50993	International filing date (day/month/year) 12.12.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.12.2002	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01R13/502			
Applicant FCI			

1. This written opinion is the **second** drawn up by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I Basis of the opinion
 - II Priority
 - III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV Lack of unity of invention
 - V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI Certain documents cited
 - VII Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension, see Rule 66.2(d).

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also: For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4. For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 bis. For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 20.04.2005

Name and mailing address of the International preliminary examining authority:  European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized Officer Demol, S Formalities officer (incl. extension of time limits) Bauer, J Telephone No. +31 70 340-3238
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I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed"*):

Description, Pages

1-12 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-24 as originally filed

Drawings, Sheets

1/9-9/9 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

5. This opinion has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	2-17,19-20,22-24
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-24

2. Citations and explanations**see separate sheet**

Re Item V

Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US-A-6 019 627 (VERMAETE CHRISTOPHE ET AL) 1 February 2000
(2000-02-01)

- 1) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Cable connector (1,3,5) comprising a housing having a die-cast base (1) substantially extending between a front side and a rear side of said connector (1,3,5) whereby a die-cast first housing part (3) mounted to said die cast base (1) such that said die-cast first housing part (3) and a first portion of said die-cast base (1) determine a first cable connector portion at said rear side a metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) mounted to said die-cast base (1) such that said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) and a second portion of said die-cast base (1) determine a second cable connector portion at said front side.

- 2) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 18 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Method of assembling a cable (6,7) to a cable connector (1,3,5) according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
providing a cable (6,7) having a cable ferrule in said first portion of said die-cast base (1)
mounting said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) to said second portion of said die-cast base (1)
mounting said die-cast first housing part (3) to said first portion of said die-cast

base (1) while clamping protrusions (33,34) of said metal sheet formed second housing part (5,30) between said cable ferrule and said die-cast first housing part (3)

- 3) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 21 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

The document D1 discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

Metal sheet formed housing part (5) of a cable connector (1,3,5), said cable connector further comprising a die-cast base (1) substantially extending between a front side and a rear side of said cable connector (1,3,5) and a die-cast housing part (3) adapted to be mounted to said die-cast base (1), wherein said metal sheet formed housing part (5,30) is adapted to be mounted to said die-cast base (1) and said die-cast housing part (3)

- 4) The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 2-17, 19-20 and 22-24 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33(3) PCT.

These dependent claims do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty or inventive step.

In claims 2-17, 19-20 and 22-24 a slight constructional change in the device or method of claim independent claim on which they depend is defined which comes within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject-matter of these claims also lacks an inventive step.

- 5) Claims 1-24 relate to subject-matter regarding electrical connections, consequently the industrial applicability of the subject-matter of these claims, as required by Article 33(4) PCT, is fulfilled.